

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 IO-13 /069 W

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R 301715Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 568

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 0949

ABIDJAN FOR DATT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TO

SUBJECT: PLOTTERS ARRESTED

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT THREE TOGOLESE ARMY OFFICERS WERE ARRESTED LAST WEEK FOR PLOTTING THE ASSASSINATION OF EYADEMA AND OTHER HIGH OFFICERS: CAPT. ESSAO GNENOU, QUARTERMASTER SERVING IN LOME AND BROTHER OF PRESIDENT'S WIFE; CAPT. GNAROU ATAKE, SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF THIRD BATTALION AT LAMA-KARA; AND MAJ. BASSABI BONFOH, COMMANDER OF FOURTH BATTALION AT TEMEDJIA AND ALSO BROTHER-IN-LAW OF EYADEMA. FOURTH OFFICER ENGAGED IN PLOT, CAPT. TOI PITEKEYOU BALOUKI, WAS INFORMANT AND HAS PROBABLY ENHANCED HIS STATURE. COL. ASSILA, SECOND-RANKING GOT ARMED FORCES OFFICER, WHO HEARD OF PLOT BUT DID NOT TAKE IT SERIOUSLY AND ONLY ADVISED GNENOU TO STOP CRITICIZING PRESIDENT, HAS BEEN REPRIMANDED FOR NOT INFORMING PRESIDENT.

2. ALLEGED MOTIVES OF PLOTTERS WERE BLOCKING OF PROMOTION LADDER
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BY SENIOR PRESIDENTIAL CRONIES SUCH AS COLS. DJAFALO AND ASSILA,

MIS-MANAGEMENT OF TOGOLESE PUBLIC FUNDS, AND EYADEMA'S SUPPOSED DISLIKE OF YOUNGER NORTHERN OFFICERS WHO ARE BETTER EDUCATED THAN HIMSELF. GNENOU AND ATAKE ARE KABYE (CABRAIS-EYADEMA'S ETHNIC GROUP). BONFOH IS A BASSARI.

3. COMMENT: PLOT AND ARRESTS HAVE NOT BEEN REPORTED IN PRESS, BUT BECOMING KNOWN THROUGH WELL FUNCTIONING RUMOR CHANNELS. NO HINT THAT ANY FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IS SUSPECTED.

4. ARRESTEES ARE ALL NORTHERNERS WHO HAVE UP TO NOW BEEN CONSIDERED STALWARTS OF EYADEMA REGIME. THEIR BETRAYAL MUST BE INTENSELY UNSETTLING TO PRESIDENT. HIS PUBLIC DEMEANOR AT INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONIES, HOWEVER, CONTAINED NO SUGGESTION OF UNUSUAL CONCERN. NEVERTHELESS, INCIDENT PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO TENSIONS WHICH WE BELIEVE EXIST IN NORTHERN TOGO.
RAWLS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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TAGS: PINS, TO, (EYADEMA, GNASSINGBE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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